

From: Joe Gerkman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 12:29pm
Subject: comment re: proposed microsoft settlement

Dear Sirs/Madams:

Unfortunately, I would have to say as an IT professional with over 11 years of experience in the industry, that the results you've come up with really won't do anything to curb Microsoft's horrible and bullying business tactics and equally will do nothing to help us as consumers. They will continue to push their way through the Technology industry and leave unsuspecting consumers, and other software developers "in their wake". They care nothing for the consumer (except as far as their own pocketbook is concerned), and even less for other software developers, who incidently typically produce software of a higher quality and more stable, but who also typically get 'run-over' by Microsoft either directly or indirectly (through their agreements with computer vendors). As it is, if I want to buy a personal computer from Dell or Gateway without Microsoft Windows on it and have something like Linux on it, I can't...as a consumer, that makes me quite angry. And after a few minutes with the computer vendor on the phone, I find out that Microsoft gets money for each and every system regardless of whether or not Windows/Office is on the machine, and that's why they can't ship it to me with Linux. That sort of situation is RIDICULOUS!!! I can't even get a computer with Windows 2000 and Office 2000 anymore...I must buy Windows XP...and I don't like it! Thanks for "helping" us out as consumers, and in the IT/Computer industry (please note the sarcasm).

I was hopeful that you would've come up with an settlement which could help avoid some of this, but unfortunately, it would appear that Microsoft has yet again gotten their way, and others are left to deal with the aftermath. If this was the result, you should've given up the case years ago and not wasted our valuable tax dollars on it.

Sincerely,

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